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photographs taken with the 10½ inch refractor of the Observatory of the University of Minnesota, was $+0''.101 \pm 0''.017$. Later, however, Dr. Newkirk measured a set of 90 plates taken with the Crossley reflector of the Lick Observatory and the result derived by him from this valuable material points to a very small parallax. See *Popular Astronomy*, 25, 373, 1917.

A. VAN MAANEN.

A BRIGHT VARIABLE STAR IN N. G. C. 6779 (MESSIER 56)

A variable star that is apparently of the Cepheid type has been found in the globular cluster N. G. C. 6779 from an examination of plates taken by Mr. Shapley and Mr. Pease. The position with respect to the center of the cluster is

$$\Delta\alpha = +1''.7, \quad \Delta\delta = +1' 30''$$

Referred to the Polar Standards, the observed range of photographic magnitude is from 14.43 to 15.20. The photovisual magnitude near maximum is 13.3, giving a color-index of +1.1. At maximum the variable is one of the two or three brightest stars of the cluster, and is probably of very high luminosity. No other variable is known in this system.

HELEN DAVIS.

NOVAE IN SPIRAL NEBULAE

1. In the course of making long-exposure photographs of the larger spiral nebulae with the 60-inch reflector, for the measurement of internal rotation and proper motion, fine negatives of the spiral H. IV 76 Cephei (N. G. C. 6946) were secured on the following dates:

- 1910, August 4, Exposure 4 hours,
- 1915, August 12, 13, 14, Exposure $6\frac{3}{4}$ hours,
- 1916, June 28, 29, 30, Exposure $9\frac{3}{4}$ hours,
- 1917, July 19, Exposure $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Large numbers of nebulous stars or points, and groups of them, are present in the branches of this spiral, as is the case in most of the larger spirals. On the south side one branch with its nebulous stars can be traced to a distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ minutes of arc from the nucleus, while on the north side a branch is shown to a distance of 5 minutes of arc.

In the inner and brighter parts of the spiral are two principal branches. In the southern one of these, lying centrally with